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Sixtieth anniversary of
the Johannestal Menno-
nite church.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
JOHANNESTAL MENNONITE
CHURCH

1882 - 1942

HILLSBORO

KANSAS

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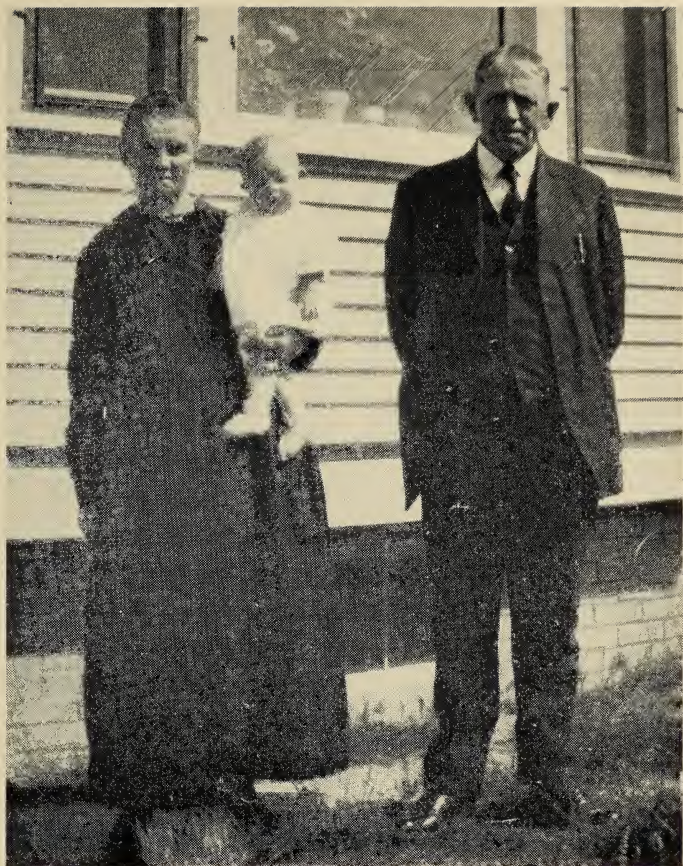
Sixtieth Anniversary of the Johannestal Mennonite Church

*Frederick
Amos S. B.
Frederick
Tompson*


1882 -- 1942

HILLSBORO, KANSAS

DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF
REV. JOHN PLENERT
1864-1937
WHO FAITHFULLY
SERVED THIS CHURCH AS
MINISTER AND ELDER
FOR FORTY-FOUR YEARS



Rev. John Plenert, 1864-1937
Mrs. John Plenert, 1866-1943
Grandson, Loyal Jantz



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JOHANNESTAL CHURCH

By Jacob Ewert

This report greets the church with the apostolic greeting, "All the saints salute you" II Cor. 13:13.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all.

The Mennonite families who organized the Johannestal Church three miles north of Hillsboro, Marion County, Kansas, in 1882 came out of two large Mennonite congregations in Russian Poland in the years 1874 to 1880. The two congregations were the German Wymischle and the German Kasan, about 35 English miles apart. In this group there were 47 families, also a number of grown sons and daughters, who were casting about to establish homes of their own. The Wymischle Mennonite Church dissolved after a few years and the Mennonite Brethren church occupied the field.

The German Kasan Mennonite church was still functioning in 1939 under the leadership of Elder Rudolph Bartel and the ministers Peter Schroeder and Leo Ewert. At that time the membership of that congregation was about 400, and was located about 17 English miles from Warsaw. In the beginning of the war in 1939 Elder Rudolph Bartel was innocently shot to death by Polish soldiers. He was 65 years of age. The family was destroyed with bombs. One does not know how the conditions there are at present.

The Mennonites in Poland were of Low-German origin, originally from Holland. In the middle of the sixteenth century, upon the invitation of the German Kaiser, a number of families migrated from Holland to Germany. Here they lived about 120 years, until 1770, when Frederick the Great became ruler over Poland. This ruler invited the Low-German Mennonites to establish their homes in western Poland. They were led to expect exemption from military service. Many German families followed this invitation from Graudenz and settled near the Vistula.

Wherever they settled they adjusted their lives according to the Christian Mennonite principles which they had accepted, organized congregations and built churches and schools. In church work the high German language was used. The language of their adopted country was also taught. In ordinary conversation, their mother tongue, the Low-German language, was retained. Schools were far apart. Many children received very little education.

Persons were baptized upon their confession of faith, using the sprinkling form of baptism. Water for this purpose was dipped out of a flowing stream. Church discipline was practiced. Members refused to render military service, but consented to render service in forestry. They refrained from using an oath. Under God's blessing they prospered not only materially, but also spiritually.

Now to return to the Johannestal Mennonite Church at Hillsboro, Kansas. Among the immigrants there was a Rev. Zacharias Bartel and an Elder Benj. Unruh, who immediately occupied themselves with the organization of a church. Under the direction of Elder Unruh, an election was held, when a young school teacher, John Harms, was elected. He preached a few years and then united with the Mennonite Brethren church.

After a few years Rev. Zacharias Bartel moved to Fairview, Oklahoma. Elder Benjamin Unruh united with the neighboring congregation, Brudertal, and for a few years served as their elder, after the death of Elder Wilhelm Ewert.

In 1879 two more ministers and their families arrived from the Kasan Church: Gerhard P. Nickel arriving in spring and John D. Bartel in fall. Both united with the group, served as ministers and assisted in the organization of the church. Peter Kopper served as song leader and correspondent. Services were conducted in homes and a school house. Sunday school and catechetical instruction were also introduced.

In 1882, the Johannestal Mennonite Church was organized, and the same year united with the Kansas Mennonite Conference which existed at that time, and in 1896 it united with the General Conference.

The first church building, 24 by 40, was erected in 1884, three miles north of Hillsboro, and dedicated on Ascension Day of that

year. The protocol of the church shows that the structure cost \$1140, of which amount \$500 had to be borrowed. Money was scarce in those days. The congregation passed a resolution to accept voluntary gifts. The Gnadenberg church sent in \$42, for which the congregation was very grateful.

Even before the erection of the church building, catechetical instruction had already been given to a group of young people. This work was now continued in the church by Elder John S. Hirschler, Hillsboro, who baptized the group of 22 young people on January 4, 1885. Thus the first fruit was added unto the congregation.

Instruction in singing was given by Elder Hirschler. Participation was good. The young people learned to sing notes without an instrument. Soon the church had her own song leader. The "Gesangbuch mit Noten" became the song book of the church as soon as it was ready.

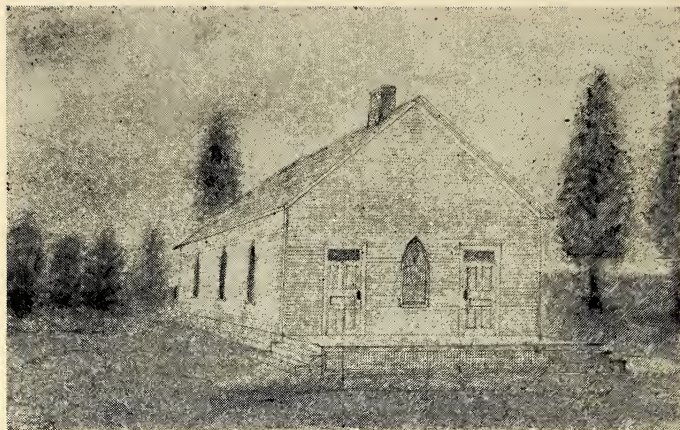
In 1886 an election for ministers was conducted. The brethren John Gerbrand and John Ewert were elected. Brother David D Unruh was elected deacon and the brethren Benjamin Funk and Cornelius Schroeder song leaders.

After the two newly elected ministers had assisted in this work for about a year, they were ordained as ministers of the gospel by Elder Dietrich Gaeddert of the Hoffnungsau church. The wives of ministers and deacons were also ordained along with their husbands.

In 1890 (?) Rev. John Gerbrand was elected as Elder and ordained into this office by Elder Jacob Buller of Alexanderwohl. Ministers and deacons were elected for life time.

Soon it was deemed necessary to decide upon certain arrangements within the congregation, which resulted in a division of the church, and the two groups became the First and the Second Johannestal Churches.

The Second church selected Rev. John D. Bartel as their Elder. He was installed into this office by the elders J. S. Hirschler and Wm. J. Ewert. Rev. Gerh. P. Nickel moved to Hesston, Kansas, and Rev. John Ewert to Moundridge, that their domestic situations might be improved.



First church, 24x40 built in 1884 as drawn by Jacob Enns according to the memory of older members. Retained as the meeting place for the Second Church until 1905.



Enlarged church building the first part of which had been erected by the First church in 1898. It was used by the united church until 1922.



Present Church, Built in 1922.
(For description see page 16)



**Church Parsonage Located in
Hillsboro. Bought in 1939.**

Deacon John Plenert was elected by the Second church to serve as assistant minister, and was thus ordained on Dec. 3, 1893. Brother Benj. Schmidt was elected deacon and the brethren Cornelius J. Plenert and Jacob Ewert as song leaders.

Both congregations used the same church. The Sunday school was conducted jointly and preaching services alternately. Christian Endeavor programs were rendered monthly on Sunday afternoons.

In 1897 Elder John D. Bartel moved to Alson, N.D., to improve his economic condition and also to serve a congregation. The Second church then elected Rev. John Plenert unanimously as elder and on March 16, 1899 was ordained to that office by the Elders Hirschler and John B. Baer.

In June, 1898, the First Church sold their share of the church building to the Second church for \$350, and then built a new church for themselves two miles northwest of the Second church.

When Elder John Gerbrand moved to Drake, Sask., in 1905, the First Church was left without an elder. The two churches now agreed to re-unite under the Eldership of John Plenert, with Rev. Henry H. Bartel of the First Church as assistant minister and Benj. Schmidt as deacon. The new building of the First Church became the meeting place of the united Johannestal Church. In 1906 Henry H. Bartel also moved to Drake, Sask.

In 1911 John A. Ewert, a school teacher, was elected and ordained as an evangelist of the church. He has served the congregation in that capacity for about 25 years.

After Elder John Plenert had faithfully served the congregation for 43 years, and the church had grown under God's blessing, due to failing health, he could no longer accomplish all his duties. The congregation now looked about for a suitable assistant leader and found in Rev. S. M. Musselman of Pretty Prairie, Kansas, such a minister, who was willing to take over the leadership of the church.

On Aug. 1, 1937 he was installed as pastor of the church. In the forenoon Rev. P. H. Unruh of Alexanderwohl spoke of the duties of the church to the minister and Rev. A. J. Dyck of Hoffnungsau of the duties of the minister to the church. After a noon meal at the church had been enjoyed, another service was held. The neigh-

boring ministers, Rev. A. E. Funk of Brudertal and Rev. J. H. Epp of Hillsboro, preached. Brother and Sister Musselman both responded with brief messages.

Two months after this service, the one who had been Elder of the church for many years, Rev. John Plenert, passed away at the age of 72 years, 10 months and 9 days. While participating at the funeral at Silberfeld for about ten minutes, preaching on Psalm 8:5, "What is Man?", he unexpectedly closed his message with the words, "I must quit." Soon he fell into a deep sleep from which he never awoke. Thus the Lord called his faithful servant from preaching into his heavenly home. The congregation calls after him:

Ja, treuer Hirt, zieh in Frieden,
Noch bleibst du lange uns im Sinn;
Und unser Blick geht schon hinieden
Weit ueber Grab und Moder hin.
Wir seh'n im Hafen dich dort prangen,
Und den verheisznen Lohn empfangen,
Im Himmel vor des Hoechsten Tron.

His tombstone in the Johannestal cemetery carries the following inscription: REV. JOHN PLENERT BORN NEUHOFF, POLAND NOV. 17, 1864 MARRIED AMELIA RATZLAFF NOV. 7, 1886 ORDAINED ELDER 1899, SERVED AS ELDER JOHANNESTAL CHURCH FROM 1905 UNTIL HIS HOMEGOING ON SEPT. 26, 1937.

Thanks to the Almighty Creator the congregation could carry on its full ministry. Soon nine new members were added to the church through baptism by Rev. Musselman, and the congregation was hopeful that He might be able to serve them for a number of years. However, God showed us how quickly joyous hopes can be shattered. While making some repairs on his yard, he injured his leg. After having been in the hospital for two weeks, he returned home nearly healed. But shortly after, as he was retiring in the evening, he fell over, and in a short time passed away at the age of 62 years, 9 months and 13 days.

12 SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SONS OF THE CHURCH



Rev. V. A. Nickel
(Son of Rev. G. P. Nickel)
Pastor, M. E. Church,
Strong City, Kansas



Rev. John Gerbrand
(Son of Rev. John Ger-
brand)
Minister of North Star
Church, Drake, Sask.

SONS OF THE CHURCH



Rev. John Bartel
(Son of John B. Bartel)
Pastor, Bergfelder Church,
Delft, Minnesota.



Rev. John J. Plenert
(Son of Rev. John Plenert)
Pastor, First Menn. Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

14 SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PASTORS OF THE CHURCH



Rev. S. M. Musselman
pastor from
Aug., 1937, to Aug., 1938.



Rev. J. M. Regier
pastor since
August 1, 1939.

He served the church only one year. His tombstone in the Johannestal cemetery carries this inscription: REV SAMUEL MOYER MUSSELMAN BORN OCT. 16, 1875 ORDAINED DEC. 21, 1902 UNITED IN MARRIAGE WITH MINERVA LANDIS JUNE 16, 1903 FAITHFULLY SERVING IN THE MINISTRY UNTIL HIS DEATH JULY 29, 1938.

Again the congregation was compelled to look about for a leader. For three months, from March 1, to June 1, 1939, the retired missionary, G. A. Linscheid, served the congregation. During this time he also administered Church Baptismal and Communion services.

Then we found our present leader and elder, Brother John M. Regier of Newton, willing to begin his services on August 1, 1939. The Regier family moved into the newly purchased parsonage in Hillsboro.

We do not want to forget the time when the church was without a regular pastor. The church always succeeded in obtaining ministers to come and preach. Next to God we thank these ministers for serving us.

During the 60 years about 310 persons have been baptized. Four church leaders have come out of the church: Rev. John Plenert, his son John J. Plenert, John Bartel, and V. A. Nickel. Two Sisters, Maria Schmidt and Anna M. Goertz dedicated their lives to deaconess work in the Bethel Hospital, Newton, Kansas.

At present there are 200 members in the congregation. The sprinkling form of baptism is used. There are 186 pupils enrolled in the Sunday school. These are divided into 16 classes, of which three are in German and 13 in English. The Christian Endeavor Society meets on alternate Sundays. The Women's Mission Society meets monthly. A choir sings for services. The song service is accompanied by organ and piano. The "Mennonite Hymnary" was introduced in 1940.

The pastor is being elected for a term of three years; the two deacons for terms of four years; the three trustees for terms of three years, and the secretary, treasurer, and the correspondents for our

two church papers are elected annually.

The first church was sold and rebuilt into a dwelling house. The former church on the present location was enlarged twice, and in 1922 it was torn down and a new church erected 36 by 60 feet, with a gallery 14 by 36 feet. There is a full basement under the church. It is equipped with a furnace and electric lights. The church was dedicated that year, free of debt. The total cost was about \$11,000.

We close this report with Psalm 103;2; "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."



Church Council

Reading upward, front row—Edw. W. Bartel, Sec.; Harrison Unruh, Trustee; Dan G. Jost, Treas.; Edwin Unruh, Deacon; Back Row—J. M. Regier, Pastor; Albert Plenert, Deacon; John F. Coertz, Trustee; Reinhold Guhr, Trustee. Not on picture—Menno Plett, Sunday School Superintendent

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE JOHANNESTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Jacob G. Bartel

Dear Friends:

We are assembled here to commemorate the 60th anniversary of our Church. It is an occasion of great joy not only to the Johannestal Church but also to the entire community.

I consider it a great pleasure as well as a great honor to appear on this program, to let the inception and the development and growth of the Johannestal Sunday school pass in brief review before you this afternoon.

In order to give you even a very brief history of our Sunday school I must take you back about 62 years, for it was in the year of 1874 to 1880 when several groups of families in Poland disposed of their homes with great sacrifice and undertook the long and dangerous journey across the ocean to America, because the conditions in Poland became more and more unfavorable for those of our faith.

The first group left Poland in 1874, others soon followed. Several families located in Illinois, others in Missouri, but the majority came as far west as Kansas and located in Marion County about three miles north of Hillsboro.

The majority of the early settlers were poor and had to make their livelihood by hard labor. They built their houses of sod. Some of these sod houses are still in use after 60 years.

All were beginners and much occupied with providing food and shelter for their growing families. They were accustomed to a different climate and different customs and it took years to adjust themselves to their new homes.

The majority of the early settlers were satisfied with their new homes. The furniture was in most cases home-made consisting of a big trunk, several chairs and a good sized table. The means of conveyance was in most cases the ox team and lumber wagon. Today their descendants are traveling by automobile and in some instances by airplane. What a change in 60 to 70 years. Among the early settlers were several ministers of the Gospel who took care of the

spiritual need of this group. Later schoolhouses were built and used as places of worship. It was keenly felt that the religious life of the community was grossly neglected without a place of worship. Plans were made to build a church in which the religious life could be carried on more effectively.

Soon after the dedication of the new church in 1884 the question of organizing a Sunday school was taken up. The Sunday school was a new venture for this group, but it had many warm supporters. At this time there was a large group of young people in this community who assumed the leadership in organizing a Sunday school. The older folks joined them. The cooperation and participation has always been very good.

It is interesting to note how the Sunday school was equipped in those days. The A.B.C. book was used for the beginners. From this they were promoted to the New Testament class and later they passed to the Old Testament class. Bible history was the most important study. The advanced classes had to tell the Bible story.

The International Lessons were introduced and used by the adult classes.

In 1886 when the Kinderbote Bote made its appearance the Sunday school subscribed for twenty-four copies. Later the individual who desired this paper had to subscribe for it.

Reward cards were used to create interest in Sunday school. I remember well how we valued those transparent picture cards.

The first Christmas day was a big day for the children. An evening program was given by them. They received presents much as they do now. In summer the Sunday school picnic was held in the open some place in the community. The main attraction was the place where the lemonade was made and dispensed.

The good custom has always prevailed that the children remain for services after Sunday school. We youngsters had our seats on the first two front rows in the old church. Behind us sat some of the older folks within easy reach of our ears. In case we should forget the exhortation of our parents they were there to remind us. It seems to me that it would be a good practice even at the present time if parents would occupy some of the front seats directly behind their boys.

The development of our Sunday school may be divided into three periods. First, a period of adjustment from 1884 to 1905 covering twenty-one years.

I wish to direct your attention to the fact that the early settlers lived among the Poles and Russians for almost a century and preserved their own customs quite well. In America the opportunity for growth and expansion was theirs, but they neglected to grasp this opportunity, mostly on account of lack of leadership and organization.

Soon decided differences of opinion developed on matters of church government. As a consequence almost 50 per cent of the membership withdrew and organized the second Johannestal Mennonite congregation. In Sunday school matters the two groups worked together for a number of years. In general it may be said that the relationship of the two groups was that of mutual trust and cooperation. The Superintendent was elected from the two groups at large. The Sunday school teachers were elected from both groups by a committee.

The second period, from 1905 to 1930, may be called a period of progress. In 1905 the two groups reunited and organized the present Johannestal Mennonite Congregation with a Sunday school enrollment of 200 pupils. It was keenly felt that the building did not properly accommodate the Sunday school. Plans were made to enlarge the church in order to provide quarters for the Sunday school classes and other activities. Up to this time the Sunday school classes had been conducted in the German only. At present it is generally conceded that we have passed through the transitional period with our language. We saw it coming. We asked ourselves, what shall be our attitude so as to lose as little as possible, but rather to gain as much as possible. It was discussed at our business meetings. In the discussion the main point emphasized was to pass over this period very cautiously. Two things at least should be kept in mind: first; the two languages could and should be used side by side, and second, that precaution be taken that the transition should be in language only and not in Mennonite principles.

At present our Sunday school consists of 16 classes, of which

only two or three are taught in the German language; all others are in the English. It is a custom in the Sunday school that the offering of the first Sunday of the month shall go for missionary purposes. The interest in missions has been increasing and the offerings for this worthy cause have amounted to large sums.

In the period from 1905 to 1942 the total sum of \$18,525 has been contributed by the Sunday school.

Another very good custom that has been practiced in this Sunday school for a number of years, is the receiving of an offering by the children in connection with the Christmas program. It is a real pleasure to observe the young folks making their contribution to this worthy cause. In many cases it means a real sacrifice for them and also for the parents.

This money is used to train and educate native workers in India. About 15 native workers have thus been helped. The majority of them have been doing splendid work among their people.

It is a pleasure to report that as the years go by our Sunday school grows, not so much in members but in influence. Much credit for this growth goes to the teachers and officers who have been able and diligent in their work.

Friends, I asked you at the beginning of this discussion to let the beginning and development and growth of this Sunday school pass in brief review before you. I hope I have succeeded in presenting a picture that recalls to your memory some of the days gone by. May this historical sketch of the Johannestal Sunday school help us to appreciate more fully the splendid heritage bequeathed to us by our forefathers, who trusted in the living God and worshiped Him in prayer and song. What about their descendants? Are we true to their devotion and their faith, or are we departing from the ways of our fathers? It would be most ungrateful if the sacrifices they made should be forgotten.

So let us be reminded and encouraged to continue in the faith of our fathers.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JOHANNESTAL CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

By John A. Ewert

Our present Johannestal Christian Endeavor Society was organized on January 30, 1909. About ten years before this time efforts were made for voluntary young people's meetings when the church services were held in the old church building, but these first attempts were not successful. A few years later when the group known as First Johannestal had erected their own church building for worship, a successful attempt followed with the first organized Christian Endeavor.

This organization was the forerunner of our present society. It started with 24 charter members. Several families had previously moved to Canada. Although the membership was rather small to start with, all took great interest in this new work. Young and old took active part. Meetings were held on alternate Sunday evenings. The interest in this work grew steadily. New members were added upon recommendation of the soliciting committee. The program committee often had hard times to find suitable topics for discussion. Later a booklet from the Eden Publishing House proved to be of great help for a number of years.

The officers, consisting of a chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer were elected by the society, but the standing committees were appointed by the church board. From the beginning until 1937 almost all discussions were carried on in the German language. At present it is almost all in the English language.

The society took special interest in missions from the very beginning. In 1912 the city mission in Los Angeles was remembered with a gift, and a few years later the city missions of Chicago, Altoona, Hutchinson and Wichita were added to the list receiving contributions from our society.

In 1914 the Western District Christian Endeavor Convention was held in the Johannestal church for the first time. At first it seemed rather difficult to provide free meals for so large a group, but in the end it worked out all right. The day was beautiful and

we had a large gathering. The extra work was soon forgotten, but the inspiration and blessing remained.

Of late the society has been re-organized into three departments, namely, the adults, the young people, and the Juniors. This new arrangement enables the program committee to give special attention to each respective group. It also helps to make out a more complete statistical report for the District Conference and the C. E. Convention.

Two more standing committees have been added since the beginning, namely a lookout committee, and a nominating committee. Exchange programs have been given with neighboring churches, and programs have also been given at the County Poor Farm and at



Grown Old in Service

Left to right—John B. Bartel, John A. Ewert, Henry J. Enns, Jacob G. Bartel, Jacob Ewert, and Henry T. Penner

the Old Peoples' Home at Goessel. Also the aged and the sick have been visited.

Of the twenty-four charter members seven have gone to their reward. Rev. John Plenert, H. H. Schroeder, and P. S. Schroeder were among the leading members. At this time the society has ninety members.

Although the methods of carrying on Christian Endeavor work may change from time to time, the spiritual need of the soul ever remains the same, and so does its cure. How thankful should we be that we have an unchangeable God and an unchangeable Word, to meet the need of our soul. Jesus is also the same yesterday, to-day and forever. "Therefore let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

HISTORY OF THE JOHANNESTAL SEWING (MISSION) SOCIETY

By Mrs. John A. Ewert

I. When and why organized

The Johannestal Sewing Society was organized April 30, 1918, with Mrs. J. A. Ewert as chairman, Marie Plenert (Jantz) as secretary and Mrs. Harrison Unruh as treasurer. Mrs. P. W. Penner assisted in organizing.

Its purpose is to sew for the different mission stations and also at home where necessary.

II. Officers

The following have served as officers since 1918:

As Chairman—Mrs. J. A. Ewert (7 yrs.); Mrs. Eva Bartel (3 yrs.); Mrs. H. B. Uuruh (10 yrs.); Mrs. Arnold Plenert (1 yr.); Mrs. D. G. Jost (1 yr.); Mrs. Edwin Unruh (3 yrs.).

As Secretary—Marie Plenert (Jantz); Mrs. Arnold Plenert; Mrs. John F. Goertz; Marie Klassen; Anna Ewert (Brandt); Mrs. Jacob Enns; Marie Ewert (Plett); Dora Ewert (Bartel).

As Treasurer—Mrs. H. B. Uuruh; Mrs. J. G. Bartel; Mrs. Herman Plenert; Mrs. Bena Plenert; Mrs. H. H. Schroeder; Mrs. J. F. Goertz; Mrs. Will Plenert; Mrs. Arnold Plenert; Mrs. J. M. Regier.

III. Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month. No lunch is served but an offering is taken at every meeting. At first meetings were held in the homes, the first one being held by Mrs. John Plenert, May 2, 1918.

IV. Attendance

Attendance is good. The highest number present was thirty-six, the lowest nine. The highest average attendance was twenty-eight in 1930, the lowest was fourteen in 1926.

V. Committees

The following Committees are appointed:—Purchasing Com., Nominating Com., Cutting Com., Eats Com., Fair Com., Social Com., Finance Com., and Quilting Com.

VI. *Worship Service*

In 1922 the society started a worship period every quarter consisting of special music, Bible verses and stories. This was dropped in 1927 and the Missionary "News and Notes" was read to the group. This was not kept up long and we had a worship period at every meeting, everyone taking part.

VII. *Projects*

Mission Sales—On Nov. 18, 1927, we had our first mission sale. It brought \$455.27. We have had one every year since.



A Group of Mission Society Workers

Public Sales—In Feb., 1928, the society served at its first public sale at J. J. Ratzlaffs. Since then the society has served at many sales.

Other Projects—The Society took part in serving at The Salem Hospital Gift Day; Old People's Home Gift Day; and the Marion County Fair. The Society sewed for the following—Janjgir, India; Bethel Hospital; Hutchinson City Mission; Los Angeles Mission; Salem Hospital; and Miss Goodman's Jewish Mission. Over two thousand articles were sewed and sent to missions and hospitals till 1932. The following were helped with money: Hutchinson Mission; Germany for milk; Alta Loma, Calif., Sanatarium; Champa and

Janjgir, India; Salem Hospital; Bethel Hospital; Bethel Nursery; Bethesda Hospital; Sufferers in Russia and India; Old People's Home, Newton; Girls' Home, Saskatoon; Okla. Mission; Home and Foreign Mission; New Settlers in Mexico; China Famine; Hutchinson Church Building; Concordia Hospital; India and China Flood Area; Montana Mission Station; Champa Hospital; India Touring Tents; Faith Mission, Brooklyn; China Building Fund; Publication; Bethel College Fellowship; Dr. Dester's Bungalow; Garden tools for India; Street Organ for Hotteville, Ariz., and Clinton, Okla.; Salem Hospital Auxiliary; Immigrants in Canada; Missionary P. J. Wiens' silver wedding.

VII. Junior Quarter Fund

Another project is the Junior Quarter Fund. Each year boys and girls are given a quarter with which to raise money for missions. This was started in 1936. Thus far the Juniors have raised \$355 in this way.

IX. Membership—25 years ago

Mrs. H. H. Schroeder; Mrs. P. H. Harms; Mrs. B. B. Schmidt; Mrs. Dan. Flaming; Anna Mae Unruh (Goertzen); Mrs. H. S. Schroeder; Marie Klassen; Bena Goertz (Jost); Mrs. J. A. Ewert; Marie Goertz; Minnie Klassen (Kindley); Mrs. H. B. Unruh; Mrs. John Plenert; Mrs. Herm. H. Bartel; Mrs. J. B. Bartel; Mrs. B. A. Unruh; Mrs. Pete Schroeder; Mrs. H. B. Buller; Mrs. Bena Plenert; Mrs. Andrew Schroeder; Mrs. Eva Bartel; Susie Unruh (Schmidt); Mrs. A. Bartel; Biena Ewert (Penner); Mrs. Maria Goertz; Mrs. P. E. Ewert; Mrs. G. E. Epp; Mrs. Jacob Ewert; Mrs. Ernest Unruh; Mrs. Adolf Plenert; Mrs. J. G. Bartel; Marie Plenert (Jantz); Mrs. John F. Goertz; Olga Klassen (Plenert); Mrs. H. J. Enns; Mrs. Arnold Plenert; Mrs. Reinhold Guhr; Lizzie Gaede; Mrs. Frank Goertz; Laura Buller; Mrs. Ed. W. Bartel; Mrs. Herman Plenert; Mrs. J. J. Ratzlaff; Emma Gaede; Mrs. J. A. Bartel; Mrs. R. F. Penner; Mrs. David Kopper; Helena Siebert.

The deceased are—Mrs. P. H. Harms; Marie Goertz; Mrs. Maria Goertz; Minnie Klassen (Kindley); Mrs. J. B. Bartel; Mrs. H. B. Buller; Mrs. Arnold Plenert; Mrs. Reinhold Guhr; Mrs. John A. Bartel; Mrs. David Kopper; Lillian Bartel (Brandt); and Mrs. H. H. Bartel.

And thus the work continues. As some workers are called into higher service and others must step back on account of old age, younger workers fill their ranks. The Society purposes to be faithful according to its ability and outside needs. The total amount contributed for missions through this society has amounted to over \$8,000 in the last 25 years.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHURCH MUSIC

By Mrs. Harrison Unruh

In Ex. 15:1 we read that when the children of Israel were saved from the hand of the Egyptians and saw the work which the Lord had done, "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel a song unto the Lord." When we read the Psalms we find many a song which David had composed. Songs in biblical times were sung on occasions of thanksgiving and triumph. Music formed an important part of the religious services and festivities of the Hebrews. And so it is today, that music, as in early times, forms an important part in Christian worship. In Eph. 5:19 Paul refers to "Speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord."

Sixty years ago the singing in church was somewhat different than it is to-day. The songbooks were without notes, and people sang without instruments. Many songs were complete chapters of the Bible. There were very few songs with only four verses; nearly all had from seven to twenty-nine verses. The congregation usually sang all the verses.

The song leader or "Vorsaenger," selected the songs. He sat in front and started the singing. Usually he was nearly half through with the first verse before the congregation started. I think that is what "Vorsaenger" means, to sing ahead. Other "Vorsaenger" were John Quiring, Ben Funk, and C. P. Schroeder. The song leaders I personally remember were H. H. Schroeder, C. J. Plenert and Jacob Ewert. I do not remember what year we started to use song books with notes, but from that time on it was somewhat easier to sing.

When Rev. J. S. Hirschler, a lover of good music, came to Hills-

boro, it was through his efforts that our first choir was organized. I still remember about forty years ago we children would go along with our parents to choir practice on Sunday afternoon. Probably to-day we parents do not take enough active part in choir singing.

In the year 1907 we purchased our first organ. Mrs. L. F. Bartel was the first organist. At first we still had the "Vorsaenger" announce the songs, but in time they quit and the minister selected his own songs. Quite a while later the church also purchased a piano.

Some of the choir leaders in our church have been Henry Kliever, H. H. Schroeder, Ben B. Jantz, J. G. Bartel, H. W. Bartel, Wesley Bartel, and at the present Esther Jost.

It is only during the last few years that the choir has been singing for Sunday morning services. Formerly it sang only for special occasions. During the last three years the choir also rendered Christmas cantatas.

(At this time four members of the first choir: Mr. and Mr. Andrew Schroeder and Mr. and Mrs. Ewert, sang a song, the same number they sang at a baptismal service on July 9, 1899.)

CHARTER MEMBERS AND WORKERS OF THE CHURCH

By Albert Plenert

Due to the incomplete early records of the church, it is very difficult to obtain anything accurate on this subject. We learn that on Dec. 2, 1883, a group of men gathered in the home of Rev. Gerhard P. Nickel to discuss the possibilities of building a church. A decision was reached to build. The building committee appointed consisted of Frank F. Goertz, David Kliever, John Bartel and Peter Jantz.

We also find that fifty men pledged toward the building of the church. Since most of these men were married, the number of charter members must have been close to one hundred at the time of the dedication of the church in the spring of 1884. In the fall of that year a large number of members were added to the church.

To identify these names is difficult for the present generation. There are, for instance, three John Bartels. One of the present older members described them thus: Ohm Johann, "Yosh" Bartel, and "Lizzie" Bartel. Among the Schroeders Ohm Peta and "Zith" Schroeder were indentified. There was also a "Wolisch" Kliewer.



Rev. and Mrs. John Gerbrand.
Rev. Gerbrand was Elder of
First Johannestal Church from
1890 to 1905.



Rev. and Mrs. Henry H. Bartel.
Rev. Bartel was a minister in
the First Johannestal Church
from 1895 to 1905.

Following is a list of names that we might call charter members. It is possible that some names have been omitted, and others should be omitted.

Cornelius Balzer, Jacob Balzer, Cornelius Barkman, John Barkman, Frank Bartel, John C. Bartel, Rev. John D. Bartel, John P. Bartel, Peter Bartel, Peter B. Bartel, David D. Buller, Henry B. Buller, Heinrich D. Buller, Andrew Ewert, Gerhard Ewert, John Ewert, Peter Ewert, Gerhard Fast, William Fast, Jacob

Flaming, Heynrich Frantz, Ben Funk, Peter Funk, Rev. John Gerbrand, Jacob Goertz, Franz F. Goertz, Heinrich Jantz, Jacob Jantz, Peter H. Jantz, David P. Kliever, Kornelius Kliever, Peter Kopper, Rev. Gerhard P. Nickel, Henry Nickel, Cornelius Plenert (father of Rev. John Plenert), John Quiring, John Ratzlaff, Andrew Schmidt, Cornelius Schroeder, David D. Schroeder, Peter Schroeder, Peter J. Schroeder, Peter P. Schroeder, Peter S. Schroeder, Ben Unruh, David D. Unruh, John Unruh, Frantz Wedel (father of Judge Hugo Wedel), Wm. Wohlgemut.

Charter members living at this time are Mrs. John C. Bartel, Hillsboro, Kansas; Mrs. John Gerbrand, Drake, Sask.; John Quiring, Goessel, Kansas; Mrs. D. D. Schroeder, Hillsboro; Mrs. P. S. Schroeder, Hillsboro.

Following have been elders of the church: John D. Bartel, John Gerbrand, John Plenert, S. M. Musselman, and John M. Regier.

Following have served as ministers: H. H. Bartel, Drake, Sask., Jacob Ewert, Hillsboro; John Ewert; John A. Ewert, Hillsboro, Kansas; Gerhard P. Nickol.

Among the ministers grown out of the Johannestal congregation are the following: John Bartel, Jr., Delft, Minn.; Jacob Gerbrand, Drake, Sask.; Ben Jantz, Drake, Sask.; Val. A. Nickel, Strong City, Kansas; John J. Plenert, Philadelphia; David F. Ratzlaff, Reedley, Calif.; Daniel Schmidt.

There are also two deaconesses coming out of the church: Sisters Anna Marie Goertz and Marie Schmidt, both serving in the Bethel Hospital, Newton, Kansas.

Following letter, received for the Jubilee celebration, gives additional information about some early "Johannestaler."

Drake, Sask., November 3, 1942.

Rev. J. M. Regier,
Hillsboro, Kansas.

Dear Brother Regier:

I was pleased to receive your card advising that the Johan-

nestal Church plans celebrating its sixtieth anniversary. While I personally was not a member, I spent the first sixteen years of my life there and am indeed interested in Johannestal's activities.

The North Star Church at Drake, Sask., has no less than 84 of its slightly over 300 members, who either themselves or their parents came from Johannestal and neighboring churches. This group is made up as follows: Johannestal, 41; Brudertal, 16; Gnadenberg, 17; Hillsboro, 1; and Moundridge, 9. All of these have close relatives there and join me in sending greetings and wishing you God's richest blessings on this festive occasion.

Of the original 31 members who left Johannestal 37 years ago and later, and affiliated with our church here, we still have the following nine: Mother Gerbrandt who approaches her eighty-sixth year and still quite hale, Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Bartel, David P. Bartel, Val B. Jantz, H. H. Jantz, Mrs. H. H. Jantz (nee Mary Plenert), Mrs. H. P. Ewert (nee Matilda Klassen) and Mrs. Mary Funk (nee Mary Gerbrandt). Rev. Bartel has been in poor health for several years and is no longer active.

May we ask for your intercessory prayers? And in conclusion may the good Lord continue to bless Johannestal in all its endeavors for Him.

Sincerely yours,

J. Gerbrandt

ANNIVERSARY WEEK: Nov. 1-6, Lectures on the "Rural Church," by Dr. J. W. Fretz, Bethel College.

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 8, 1942

J. M. Regier—Chairman

Morning 10:30

Prelude

Gloria Patri

Invocation by Pastor

Hymn—"Now Thank We All Our God."

Scripture reading

Hymn—"Groszer Gott wir loben Dich"

Announcements

Young People's Choir

History of the Church - - - - - Jacob Ewert

Offering for C.P.S. camps amounted to \$100.00.

Young People's Choir, "Oh, that Men Would Praise the Lord"

Ira B. Wilson

Sermon - - - - - Rev. V. A. Nickel

Hymn—"Praise to the Lord"

Benediction

Closing hymn—"May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour"

Dinner in Church basement

Afternoon 2:30

Songs—Mennonite Hymnary No. 516 and 517

Prayer - - - - - Rev. John J. Plenert

Adult Choir—"Kommt Brueder, steht nicht stille"

"Early Development of the Sunday school" - J. G. Bartel

"Early Development of Christian Endeavor" - J. A. Ewert

Young People's Choir, "Mercy and Truth are Met Together."

D. S. Bortniansky

"Development of Church Music" - - Mrs. Harrison Unruh

Quartet—Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Schroeder and Mr. and Mrs.

Jacob Ewert

"Charter Members and Early Leaders" - Albert Plenert

Adult Choir—"Wo eilt ihr hin, ihr Lebensstunden"

Greetings from neighboring ministers—B. H. Janzen, Lehigh; H. T. Unruh, Hillsboro; A. E. Funk, Brudertal; Walter Regier, Friednestal.

Thanks offering for Relief amounted to \$92.

Hymn—"Holy Lord, Holy Lord"

Closing prayer - - - - - Rev. H. T. Unruh

Evening 8:00

Songs—Menn. Hymnary No. 511 and 513

Responsive Reading No. 84

Prayer by Pastor

Men's Chorus

Sermon - - - - - Rev. Walter Gering

Men's Chorus

Sermon - - - - - Rev. John J. Plenert

Closing remarks - - - - - J. M. Regier

Hymn—"Jesu, geh' voran"

Benediction

Closing verse—"So nimm denn meine Haende"

COMMITTEES

Food Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Plenert

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Bartel

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Goertz

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Klassen

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Penner

Decorating Committee:

Mrs. Erwin Penner

Mrs. Roland Bartel

Mr. Walter Gaede

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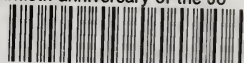
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1525	9 "	6	"	"	1932	13 "	10	"	"
1526	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	"	"	1933	14 "	11	"	"
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